

80113-0128

09/976,019

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed May 18, 2005 which imposed an Election of Species in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant makes the following election and requests that examination of the elected claims on their merits be promptly conducted in light of the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Office alleges that the present application contains claims drawn to three independent and patentably distinct species. The claims are grouped as follows:

Claim Group 1: Claims 1-17, 44-47 and 50-55;

Claim Group 2: Claims 18-35, 48 and 49; and

Claim Group 3: Claims 36-43.

In response, Applicant elects Claim Group 1, claims 1-17, 44-47 and 50-55, for immediate examination. Additionally, the recent Office Action holds that claim 18 is generic to all species. Consequently, claim 18 is to be examined with the elected claims and, if found allowable, will result in the examination of the non-elected claims.

Consequently, claims 1-18, 44-47 and 50-55 are presented for immediate examination. All other original claims are labeled as "withdrawn" herein.

Applicant does not disclaim the subject matter of any withdrawn claim and reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the withdrawn claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

80113-0126

09/976,019

An examination of claims 1-17, 44-47 and 50-55 on their merits is now respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 20 June 2005



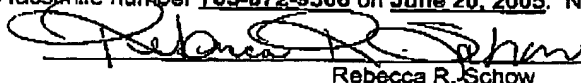
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 703-872-9306 on June 20, 2005. Number of Pages: 15



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